

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Sitka Sound Science Center****Federal Tax ID: 26 1253086****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Sitka Sound Science Center - Facility Improvements for Alaska Research and Education

**State Funding Requested: \$100,000****House District: 34 / Q**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project includes the renovation of the Sitka Sound Science Center so it can be a premier support facility for the University of Alaska Fisheries Technology program, scientific research and education in Alaska.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$4,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$1,200,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$100,000)
Project Deficit:	\$3,200,000

*Funding Details:*

*The funding from the legislature will fund Phase 2 of this project. We may request funding for part of subsequent phases. We have received funding from the Rasmuson Foundation(\$491,000) in 2013; DIPAC (\$200,000) in 2013. Private foundations 2011-2014(\$147,000) and we have secured a loan from the State of Alaska Revolving Loan for Fisheries Enhancement Fund(\$500,000) 2014.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Sitka Sound Science Center provides scientific research and science education to Alaska. We conduct research that is important to State fisheries and aquaculture and our educational programs are helping Alaskans fill a critical need in aquaculture and fisheries. We have formal partnerships with the University of Alaska, the United States Forest Service, NSRAA, Mt. Edgecumbe High School and NOAA. The SSSC SJ Hatchery produces fish for the common property fisheries that have totaled \$1.4 million for the commercial, charter, recreational, and subsistence harvest of salmon returning to the hatchery. Our hatchery is the ONLY training facility of its kind in Alaska. Improving the Science Center facility will improve educational and research potential for the State. This project will improve the Mill Building which is an important National Historic Landmark structure in delivering aquaculture education and supporting scientific research. This renovation will secure the foundation, replace the roof, and the siding and add shower, laundry, and storage capabilities for visiting researchers.

In a relatively short amount of time, Sitka Sound Science Center has done a tremendous amount of work to acquire and begin renovation of a facility that is important to work force development for the fisheries and fisheries enhancement industries in Alaska. The building acquisition was supported in large part by the City of Sitka which made a significant financial contribution.

The SJ Hatchery was granted one of the first salmon hatchery permits in the State of Alaska when Sheldon Jackson College owned the facility. The facility has trained hundreds of people to work in fisheries biology, salmon enhancement and other natural resource- based careers who are now leaders and resource managers around Alaska. Sheldon Jackson College operated the hatchery and when The College closed its doors in 2007, the Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC), a non-profit organization, took over operation of the facility. And in 2010 purchased the building with support from private foundations and the City of Sitka.

The SSSC has a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alaska.SSSC has forged an important partnership with the UAS Fisheries Technology Program to continue using the SJ Hatchery as a hands-on training center. Our MOU with the University also supports the work of UAS researchers that are based here at the Sitka Sound Science Center. SSSC also works closely with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. The partnership with NSRAA allows for a substantial increase of salmon returns to the common property fishery in Sitka Sound and Deep Inlet. Sitka Sound Science Center is a workforce and economic development entity committed to preparing the workforce needed by the aquaculture and fisheries industry which are large contributors to the State's economy.

Today, the Science Center facility is operational but in need of modernization. In order to continue to prepare students statewide to participate in Alaska's fisheries workforce and to support important scientific research, there is a need to update the facility. SSSC underwent Predevelopment with the Foraker Group and completed a master plan. This master plan reflects a year and half of consultation with planners, scientists, educators and stakeholders and it reflects building renovations that match our current and future programs. This plan is divided into phases so the work can be completed carefully and operations can continue while construction moves ahead.

Sitka Sound Science Center is working with Northwinds Architects, a building committee with a breadth of construction expertise, and historic concrete building experts from WJE Associates.

### Project Timeline:

The project will be completed within 18 months of securing the funds.

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Sitka Sound Science Center

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Lisa Busch  
 Title: Executive Director  
 Address: 834 Lincoln Street  
 Sitka, Alaska 99835  
 Phone Number: (907)747-8878  
 Email: lbusch@sitkascience.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
RESOLUTION 2012-24**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR  
THE SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, Sitka Sound Science Center, Inc. is an Alaska 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Gulf of Alaska through education and research; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC was organized in 2007 to continue the scientific educational, training and research traditions existing in Sitka; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC uses hatchery cost recovery revenue, tourism donations, private contributions, fees for service, research contracts and grants including the City and Borough of Sitka through its Community Grants and Fisheries Enhancement funding programs; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC partners with a number of local, federal and state agencies including a formal MOU with University of Alaska, to provide science education and research opportunities that engage the community and to inform natural resource management decisions in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC chairs the Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Future Career Coalition that is a State group that is encouraging and advocating for more rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives to become involved in marine science and fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC is seeking funding to stabilize its infrastructure by renovating it's building with a new roof, new windows, improved exterior and a new mechanical system so that it can continue to provide economic development and scientific understanding to the region and the State; and

**WHEREAS**, SSSC has done extensive master planning with the Foraker Group to create a building renovation plan that can be done in phases; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska hereby supports the FY2013 application of the Sitka Sound Science Center for a \$2 million Alaska Legislative grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 9th day of October, 2012.



Mim McConnell  
Mayor

ATTEST



Colleen Ingman, MMC  
Municipal Clerk



SITKA SOUND  
SCIENCE CENTER  
ALASKA

## SSSC Project Summary

SSSC is a non profit organization contributing to the economy of the State through research, and education on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the Gulf of Alaska.

SSSC purchased the Sage Memorial Building and supporting structures from the Sheldon Jackson College in 2010 to house its operations. The buildings and hatchery facilities had received minimal maintenance over the years and are in need of significant repair. The Sage and Mill Buildings are part of the Sheldon Jackson National Historic Landmark. The Mill building will support University of Alaska Fisheries Technology Program.

## What Needs to Be Done:

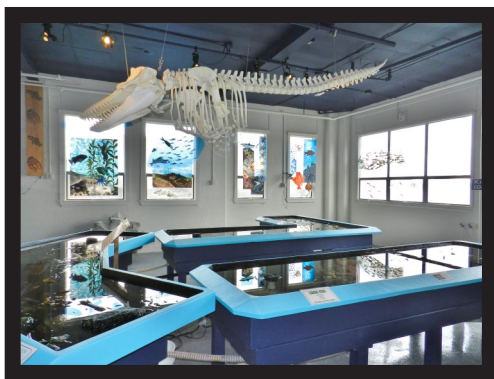
### Sage and Mill Building:

Currently the window replacement and roof repair are underway for the Sage Building(\$1.4 million)

The Mill Building roof and siding need replacing and the electrical and plumbing need upgrading.



*Disintegrating concrete window sill at the Sage Building*



## What it Will Cost:

The preliminary estimate of total project costs for accomplishing all the needed work is \$4.5million. This is based on construction in 2014. The Mill building portion, Phase 2 of the project is \$642,000.

## How Much Are We Requesting:

SSSC anticipates multiple funders for this project. The capital campaign will include private foundations, other government funding, and private donations. **SSSC is asking the State to support this project through a contribution of :  
\$642,000**



## Sitka Sound Science Center Education Projects 2013

1. Partnership with University of Alaska Fisheries Technology Program. We partner with UAS to deliver training in fisheries management and aquaculture to students from around the State. Fisheries Technology program is now based at the UAS Sitka Campus.
2. Scientists in the Schools is now a K-12 program. In partnership with University of Alaska and with funding from the USDA(\$106,000), this program carefully coordinates scientists from around the nation into Sitka and Mt. Edgecumbe Classrooms.
3. Naturalist Speaker Series. Brings scientists from around the State to present scientific information to the general population. Sitka Alaska Charitable Trust. \$2,500
4. Native Plant Garden. Presents plants and signs to help visitors understand the relationship between the forest and the ocean. Funded by the US Forest Service
5. After School Programs. Three days a week we offer after school science enrichment programs that expose students to marine and terrestrial science as well as engineering and technology.
6. Field Courses. We bring colleges and universities with their field courses, their professors and students to Sitka for three and four week classes. Stanford, University of San Francisco, Knox College, Colgate, University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries
7. Sitka School District and Mt. Edgecumbe High School. We offer programs and visiting scientists during school hours including the EcoExplorer enrichment lunch at Blatchely and help with the Sitka High School field science class.
8. Tourism. We provide informal science education to thousands of visitors to the Science Center each year
9. Out reach, we help educate our coastal citizenry about scientific findings that impact our communities in the region.

### Sitka Sound Science Center Research Projects 2013

1. "Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Partnership: Fishermen, managers and scientists working together to improve sablefish assessment and reduce interactions between sperm whales and longliners." Funded by NOAA. Award Number NA11NMF437001. \$353,155
2. "Development and Testing of Whale Deterrent Strategies in Alaska Longline Fisheries". Funded by Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. CBSFA-2012-01. \$49,000
3. "Pink and Chum Salmon Hatchery-Wild Interactions Research". Funded by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. \$864,960
4. "Bioenergetics Wetlab and Chemistry Services." Funded by NOAA. Contract Number WE-133F-12-SE-2300. \$47,500
5. "Between Pacific Tides: Revisiting Historical Surveys through Ricketts, Calvin and Ahlgren." Funded by the North Pacific Research Board. \$39,268
6. "Scientists in Residency Fellowship(SIRF)". Funded by the National Science Foundation. \$180,000
7. "Salmon Connection" exhibit development with University of Washington School of Fisheries. Funded by the National Science Foundation. \$121,000
8. "Tsunami Marine Debris Monitoring" Funded by the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation. \$16,455(monitoring). \$49,896(clean up).
9. Meristics analysis and rearticulation of a young killer whale skeleton from stranded marine mammal in Southeast Alaska". Funded by NOAA. Award number NA11NMF4390172; \$25,000 National Science Foundation(Rapid Response grants in Office of Polar Programs) \$10,000
10. "Rockfish Collection." Funded by NOAA contract.
11. "Native Plant Demonstration Project." Funded by the U.S. Forest Service. \$33,183.
12. Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Program. Conduct outreach for a \$18 million dollar research project funded by the North Pacific Research Board.